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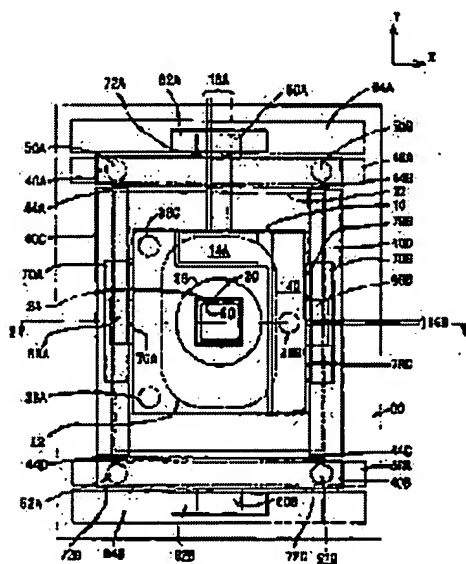
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(54) STAGE MECHANISM AND ITS OPERATING METHOD

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To suppress the twisting motion of a stage and to prevent the frequency response characteristic of the stage motion from decreasing by surrounding a traveling stage from a side, allowing opposing window frame members to contact the stage so that they can be slid along with the stage, and providing a plurality of guides for supporting another opposing window frame member so that each can be slid.

CONSTITUTION: A stage 10 floats on air bearings 36A, 36B, and 36C at the upper portion of a flat upper surface of a base part structure 32 in operation state. The sides of the stage 10 are surrounded by a window frame which is a square structure body consisting of an upper window frame part 40A, a bottom part frame member 40B, a left side window frame member 40C, and a right side window frame member 40D. The window frame member 40A moves while it is supported on a fixing guide member 46A and the window frame member 40B moves while it is supported on a fixing guide member 46B. A motor coil 68A for moving the stage 10 moves in a magnetic track 70A mounted to the window frame member 40C and a motor coil 68B moves in a magnetic track 70B mounted to the window frame member 40D.



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